

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RABAT 04062 311637Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /144 W

----- 109232

R 311610Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0008

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 4062

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA DISCUSSES LAND RECOVERY

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN PARIS ON OFFICIAL VISIT, FONMIN BENHIMA BROKE NEW GROUND ON QUESTION OF RECOVERY OF FOREIGN-HELD LANDS. INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN PRO-GOVERNMENT MOROCCAN PRESS AUGUST 30. HE SAID GOM WILL PERMIT 187 FARMERS WITH HOLDINGS SMALLER THAN 5 HECTARES TO REMAIN ON LAND FOR REST OF THEIR LIVES. HOWEVER, OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF COLONS HAVE LARGE HOLDINGS: ONLY 14,000 HECTARES DIVIDED INTO FARMS OF LESS THAN 50 HECTARES, WHILE REMAINING 250,000 MADE UP OF LARGE HOLDINGS WITH ANNUAL INCOMES OF BETWEEN 600,000 AND 3,000,000 DIRHAMS. THESE PERSONS HAVE LONG SINCE AMORTIZED THEIR INVESTMENTS, ACCORDING TO FONMIN. HE SAID FOREIGN-HELD LANDS IN MOROCCO TOTALLED 300,000 HECTARES PRIOR TO EXPROPRIATION.

2. BENHIMA SAID INDEMNIFICATION COULD NOT BE LINKED TO FRENCH AID. GOM WOULD NOT ACT AS CASHIER'S WINDOW WHICH TOOK AID FROM FRENCH AND DISBURSED TO COLONS. WHILE PRINCIPLE OF INDEMINIFICATION ACCEPTED, TO PAY COLONS 1.8 BILLION DIRHAMS AT WHICH LAND VALUED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RABAT 04062 311637Z

WOULD "BLEED US WHITE." EACH COLON WILL, HOWEVER, BE ALLOWED TO

TAKE OUT UP TO 100,000 DIRHAMS AND IS INVITED TO INVEST REST IN MOROCCO UNDER NEW INVESTMENT CODES IN SECTORS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE NOT AFFECTED BY MOROCCANIZATION.

3. BENHIMA CONCLUDED INTERVIEW BY NOTING THAT IMPORTANT FRENCH FIGURE HAD ONCE SAID: "UNTIL NOW, FRANCE HAS DEVOTED PART OF HER HISTORY TO DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF FRENCHMEN. IT IS TIME THAT SHE OCCUPY HERSELF A LITTLE WITH THE INTERESTS OF FRANCE." THIS BIT OF WISDOM, HE INDICATED, APPLICABLE TO PRESENT SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

4. COMMENT: BENHIMA'S REMARKS INDICATE THAT GOM HAS BEGUN TO DEVELOP OUTLINES OF AN APPROACH TO INDEMNIFICATION QUESTION. ALSO, PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT HOLDERS OF LESS THAN 5 HECTARES WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM DECREE NOW CONFIRMED. GENERALLY, HOWEVER, HE APPEARS TO BE TAKING HARD LINE, PARTLY AS OPENING SALLY IN WHAT WILL PRESUMABLY BE LONG BARGAINING SESSION BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF APPARENT FIRM GOM DECISION THAT MOROCCO WILL NOT PAY FULL INDEMNIFICATION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR LANDS.
ROCKWELL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT04062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973082/aaaaabjw.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <17-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA DISCUSSES LAND RECOVERY
TAGS: PINT, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005